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# Newsletter

## Number 29

5 November 2010



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

### Thanks

- .. To those parents who assisted with this week's junior's beach trip.
- .. To those who supported our recent Trivia Night.
- .. To those who have offered to help out with lunchtime athletics activities.
- .. To Sergeant Steve Duckmanton for taking the time to come and draw the Raffle.

### People of the Week

- .. Cherrie Parker and her team (Cassandra Whalen, Jackie Marvin, Jane Martin, Yvonne Were, Steve and Michelle Martin) for their hard work towards a successful Trivia night. Thoroughly enjoyable night had by all. .. Thanks also to Mr D. for his contributions.
- .. Our senior debating teams for stellar performances last night and to Jennie Clarke for many hours of coaching assistance.
- .. Well done to the Yr 7's & 8's Rugby Team who won 10 tries to 3 against Kamo Intermediate.

### Something worth celebrating

Congratulations to our year 7 and 8 debating teams for excellent performances against tough competitions from local intermediate schools. Our Year 8 team (Campbell, William, Isaac) won the negative to the moot "It's a Boys World". The team believes its win was due to the use of humour and some tactical errors from the Whangarei Intermediate School team,. Thanks to Michaela and Sophie for assisting our team in the preparation period. We are proud of you all.

### Cups and Trophies

It is time to polish up the trophy and return it to school as we are beginning preparations for the end of year Prize Giving. Please return to the school office as soon as possible. Thank you.



### Responsibility Virtue

A reminder to continue your good work at home on the Responsibilities virtue. Please let us know if you have misplaced your support material and advise us of special gains so we can acknowledge these in the newsletter.

**think... SOLD!**

think yellow,  
think...

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#### **Term 4 School Contributions**

Those who opted for quarterly payment of their school contribution will receive a payment request early next week. It would be appreciated if all outstanding contributions could be paid within the two weeks or by a mutually agreed alternative date. Thanks.

#### **Term Calendar**

Additional dates will be advised as these come to hand.

8 November	Lunch time athletics tournament starts
9 November	Zone athletics at Poroti School
9 November	Mobile Ear Clinic outside Bush Road Medical Centre (8:30 to 3:30)
18 / 19 November	Tech Quest (more to follow)
30 November	Year 7 and 8 Interschool Athletics
30 Nov - 3 Dec	Year 4 camp at Marsden Bay
2-3 December	Year 3 camp at Marsden Bay
6 December	Year 7 and 8 abseiling at Whangarei Falls
10 December	Reports issued to parents
13 December	Team Athletics Day
14 December	Prize Giving
15 December	Year 8 Fun Day
16 December	Final day of school year

#### **Matarau T-Shirts**

It is school policy that children wear a Matarau t-shirt whenever they attend events out of school. We have a very limited number of t-shirts available to borrow, however, it is recommended that parents purchase t-shirts for their children and these are available from the office from \$20.00.

#### **Poroti Athletics - 9 November - (Years 3 to 8)**

If you have not yet returned your child's consent form please send this to school on Monday.

Please note that regular classes will not take place on this day (except for Year 1 and 2 children). Most children will travel by bus, leaving school shortly after 8:00 AM returning by 3:00 PM.

Please ensure children bring suitable clothing (including Matarau T-Shirts), sunhats, sunblock, lunch, plenty to drink and spending money at your discretion.

#### **Junior School Request**

.. old towels. Any donations would be gratefully accepted.

#### **Year 3 / 4 Camp to Marsden Bay**

If you have not yet returned camp consents please send these to school as soon as possible. Any questions please to Mrs Abbott.

#### **Secondary School Testing**

Parents of Year 8 students will be aware that secondary school placement testing is under way. Please impress on children the importance of these tests in determining class placement for next year. As is our practice, Mr Delemare will shortly meet with secondary schools to ensure that they have full information on your child and that they get the best placements possible.

#### **Mary Wallace Art Awards**

You may recall that two art scholarships were presented last year based on a portfolio of artworks submitted for judging. If you think your child might be interested please contact the school office for further information, or chat to their teacher about their suitability. In a nutshell, each portfolio is to contain .. 4 pieces of art work completed by the candidate this year .. 1 piece completed (at school) in some other year .. a brief written statement on one of the art pieces. Portfolios are to be submitted for judging by 29 November.

### **Lunchtime Athletics Competitions**

If able to help with these competitions (lunchtimes starting 8 November) please give Kevin a call. We will even let you choose your favourite event(s) and age level(s). Parents might like to encourage their children's interest in these events.

### **Drink Bottles**

Please ensure your child brings a drink bottle to school each day to place on their desk. Water is best.

### **Mobile Ear Clinic**

.. will be outside the Bush Road Medical Centre 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM Tuesday 9 November. No appointments necessary. Pre-schoolers also welcome.

### **Term Headlice Inspection**

.. is scheduled for 12 November. We need further parent offers to assist with this inspection. If you are able to assist with this term's inspection please phone Donna Cates in the office. In the meantime parents are asked to check children's hair weekly and to take prompt action in the event of infestation.

### **Home Gardens** Remember ..

.. that gardens need to be looking their best for judging in late November.  
.. to use the garden resource booklet sent home with children last term if needing ideas

.. to add a little here and there to garden diaries  
.. to give Kevin a call (or drop by) with any questions.

Thanks to those children who contributed to this week's seedling swap. Children have asked if we can have another swap day and so watch this space for details.



### **Central Calf Club Day** .. Thursday 11 November 2010.

Registrations taken from 9.00am, Barge Park. For further information contact Natalie Roberts on 09 4377944.

### **Community Notices**

Home Cleaner Available - Ph Mandy Blackley, 0274744279 or txt and I'll contact you.

Free to a good home, 2 roosters. Ph Lisa 4356199.

Wanted - 2x weaner Simmental steers or similar. Ph Wayne 0274767084.

Relief Milker Required - 14km from Matarau School. Must have own transport. Please ph 4337594.

House to Rent - 4 bedroom villa with wetback fire box, spring water, wet area shower/bathroom, HRV system. Pets allowed. Dbl garage. Situated at Matarau. Available immediately for min 12 months \$350/wk. Ph Naomi on 4335786 or 02102676598.

WGHS Enrolments & Orientation day - Monday 6 December 2010. Enrolment interviews at WGHS every Tuesday & Thursday during school hours. Call now for a prospectus and interview time.

Kamo Amateur Swim Club - Registration Fri 5 November, 4.00pm at Kamo High School pool. New members welcome. Come prepared to swim if requiring an assessment. Swimmers need to be confident in water and swim width of KHS pool. Stroke improvement begins Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Nov at 4.30pm and thereafter Mon & Fri, 4.30pm. First club night, with timed races, Wed 1 Dec at 6.00pm. If you would like to help out or have any queries, ph Sue Mehrtens on 4335606 or 021834570.

Kamo Tennis Club Inc - Jnrs Tues 3.30-5.30pm beginning 19 October, Club Nights Tues & Thurs 5.30pm, already commenced, Ladies Day Thur 9am-11.30am.

Learn to Ski - Kai Iwi Lakes, Sat 20 Nov from 10am to 3pm

**Bream Bay Fun Run & Walk - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November @ 9.00am.**

**For registration forms and more info visit [www.wps.school.nz](http://www.wps.school.nz)**

A&P Show Children's Pet Competition - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Entry forms available at the office.

Rural Home Based Childcare - 20 hrs free available for 3-5 yr olds. Pickup/Drop off options available, arranged on an individual basis. Enquire now to reserve your space. Phone Sharlene 4337944.

### Research findings on what really makes a difference to learning

So .. moving down the list .. *(Interesting as individualised programmes are often touted as the way of the future).*

	<u>Last week</u>	<u>This week</u>
Bigger difference than was believed	Remediation and feedback	Students disposition to learn
Lesser difference than was believed	Individualised programmes	Audio visual aids

### Safety of children waiting for the school bus

A special thanks for ensuring children wear their high visibility vests - further vests available on request.

### International Schools English and Mathematics Competitions

Results for both competitions have been sent home. Any questions please to your child's teacher.

#### **When analysing results you are encouraged to ..**

.. remember that these tests are designed to be difficult and tend to be sat by children who are already achieving in the upper quartiles in maths. So, an average performance in these tests (or perhaps even a below average performance) might be well above average in any test normed for the general school population.

.. only (and this is approximate) 2 or 3 percent of NZ students sit these exams and so they are not suitable for drawing comparisons with the general school population.

.. these tests are most useful as an adjunct to regular programmes and as extension for children needing this.

.. trends are more important than one off results. If your child has lifted or dipped from one test to another be cautious about the conclusions you draw from this. Trends and patterns over longer periods of time are much more useful and might form part of a useful discussion with your child and/or their teacher.

### Class placements for 2011

We will shortly be giving thought to 2011 class placements. Although placement decisions must ultimately be made by the teaching staff, we do invite parents to advise of any matters they would like us to consider when placing their child. **If there are any matters you would like us to consider please contact Kevin within the next week or so. No guarantees but we will add your thoughts to the mix.**

### Looking Ahead

Matarau School will finish this year with approximately 260 students - our highest number ever. In spite of this, the board has continued to ensure class numbers are as low as we can afford them to be. With similar numbers expected next year, the board has again committed to funding additional teachers to keep numbers as low as possible - especially in the junior and senior schools. It is highly important that we have good information with which to plan. If you know your child will NOT be at Matarau School next year please phone Helen next week or leave a message on the school answer phone over the weekend. Alternatively, if you know of children likely to enrol, of whom we may not be aware, please also let us know. Thanks.

Regards

Kevin Trewhella

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